



# Red Seas, White Sands, Blue Skies

October - December 2016

*An American Citizen Services Newsletter*

## How to Reach Us

**The US Embassy is located in the Diplomatic Quarter, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

### **Public hours:**

Sunday through Thursday,  
1:00pm-3:00pm

*Schedule an Appointment:*

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=RID&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(11)488-3800

## **US Consulate Jeddah**

### **Public hours:**

Sunday through Thursday,  
1:00-3:00pm

*Schedule an Appointment:*

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=JDD&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(12)667-0080

## **US Consulate Dhahran**

### **Public hours:**

Sunday through Thursday,  
1:00-3:30 pm

*Schedule an Appointment:*

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=dhr&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(13)330-3200

## Meet the New ACS Chief

Hello! My name is Jason Chiodi and I'm the new head of the American Citizen Services section here in Riyadh. I'm excited to be working with the American Citizen community in Riyadh. By way of quick background, I'm from Pennsylvania and am a veteran of the U.S. Navy. This is my first time serving with the State Department in the Middle East but I have previously served in a similar capacity in Africa, Europe, twice in the Western Hemisphere as well as at



State Department headquarters in Washington. My career has been very varied but one thing I've learned is that the American community is a tremendous resource. I have had the chance to meet a number of you at the citizen town hall in August (see article/photos) and I'm looking forward to meeting more of you in the future. On that note, we are planning to do more citizen outreach in 2017. If you have suggestions for outreach events or locations, please contact [RiyadhACS@state.gov](mailto:RiyadhACS@state.gov).

I look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

*Jason*

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## Overseas Voting



The United States general elections will be held on **November 8, 2016**. If you have never voted while overseas before, it's not too late. The process is easy --- just follow these steps:

### Step 1: Complete and submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

Whether you are a first-time voter or have voted absentee in past elections, complete an [FPCA](#) to receive your ballot this fall. It allows you to register to vote and request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (presidential and state primaries, run-off, special, and the November general elections) during the course of the year in which you submit the FPCA. Local election officials in all U.S. states and territories accept the [FPCA](#).

The [online voting assistant](#) available at [FVAP.gov](#) is an easy way to complete the FPCA. It will ask you questions specific to your state and tell you if electronic ballot delivery is possible. No matter which state you vote in, **we encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically** (by email, internet download, or fax - depending on your state).



Be sure to include your email address to take advantage of electronic delivery. The online voting assistant will generate a printable FPCA, which you can then print, sign, and submit according to your State's instructions.

### Step 2: Fill out your ballot when it arrives

All States now allow you the option to receive your ballot electronically. Once your ballot arrives, fill it out and mail it to the U.S. You can return your voted ballot to your local election officials free of charge via the nearest embassy or consulate (see page 4) or mail it directly at your own expense.

As always, you can contact your election office to ensure they received your information by sending them an email or giving them a call!

To find your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices, visit [FVAP's contact page](#).

Remember - absentee ballots count. So make sure you complete and send in your State ballot as soon as it arrives.

## What if you don't receive your ballot?

If you do not receive your ballot by Oct. 8th, you can still vote! Simply use the backup **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)**, also available at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). The FWAB serves as an emergency backup ballot and can be used in all States to vote for federal offices. This backup ballot can be completed using the [FWAB online assistant](https://fvap.gov) available at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov), by filling out the PDF or picking up a hard copy version from your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. The online assistant will guide you through the process of completing the form. Once you complete the form, you will be able to download and print the PDF package to sign and send to your election office. If you receive your State absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return it as well. If your State ballot and your FWAB are received by the deadline, only one will be counted.

## What if you forgot to register and request your ballot this year?

Many States require that you be registered and request an absentee ballot before using the FWAB. You can try registering (completing and submitting the FPCA) AND sending in the back-up ballot (FWAB) at the same time. A few States even allow registration via the FWAB. You can check your States requirements at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov).



## Questions?

If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the Voting Assistance Team at your nearest Embassy or Consulate:

- Embassy Riyadh: Tel. 011 488 3800, or email [VoteRiyadh@state.gov](mailto:VoteRiyadh@state.gov)
- Consulate General Jeddah: Tel. 012 667 0080, or email [VoteJeddah@state.gov](mailto:VoteJeddah@state.gov)
- Consulate General Dhahran: Tel. 013 330 3200, or email [VoteDhahran@state.gov](mailto:VoteDhahran@state.gov)





## U.S. Embassy Riyadh August Town Hall



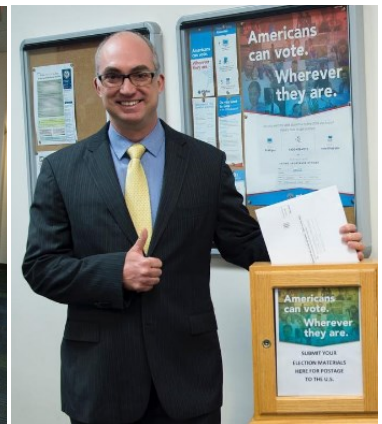
The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh organized a town hall for American Citizens on August 25th. The event was hosted by U.S. Embassy Riyadh's Consul General (CG), Ms. Virginia Ramadan. Over 200 attendees heard from the keynote speaker, Mr. Christopher Henzel, the new Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) (pictured to the left). The new American Citizen Services (ACS) Chief, Jason Chiodi, provided an overview of the services the Embassy can provide to U.S. citizens in Saudi. Other highlights included a briefing by the Regional Security Officer regarding the current security situation in the Kingdom, presentations by the American Business Group of Riyadh, and absentee voting information from the American Citizen Services Unit. The CG, DCM, and ACS Chief were able to answer questions directly from the audience during an informal Q&A session. ACS staff were on hand to provide voting assistance.



## Let Us Mail Your Ballot!

You can drop off your completed voting forms and ballots for delivery to the United States free of charge at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh or the Consulates General in Dhahran and Jeddah. Forms and ballots can be dropped off during the following hours: **Sunday through Thursday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** Please ensure that ballots are properly addressed to your local election officials and with either the appropriate postage stamp, or in [postage-paid envelopes](#) (which can be downloaded free from [FVAP.gov](#)).

You can submit forms and ballots to be returned to the U.S. via diplomatic pouch or the military postal system. Normal transit time from Saudi Arabia to the United States is around 15 days. We recommend you drop your ballots off by **October 16th** in order to allow enough time for delivery to the U.S.





## U.S. Consulate Jeddah September Town Hall

U.S. Consulate General Jeddah's new Consul General (CG), Matthias Mitman, hosted a town hall meeting for approximately 60 U.S. citizens. Emphasizing Absentee Voting Week, the CG covered the importance of voting in his remarks. Consular staff were on hand to answer questions about absentee voting and received voting materials for free mailing back to the United States. The town hall was a great opportunity to introduce the new CG to the local U.S. citizen community, which also heard a security briefing from the Regional Security Officer and briefings about consular services and new initiatives for the volunteer warden program from the Consular Section Chief and the Deputy Consular Section Chief.



## Consular Services in Abha and Yanbu

U.S. Consulate General Jeddah's going on the road to visit U.S. citizens in our consular district who live outside of Jeddah. Our team will be in Abha October 18-19 and Yanbu November 15-16.

During these visits, we would like to provide some limited consular services. This would include accepting applications for passports, social security numbers, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and notarial services. We are not able to take visa applications. In both Abha and Yanbu, we will also hold a town hall meeting.

For residents in Abha, in advance of the November 8 general election, we will also accept completed voter registration forms, ballots, and back up ballots (check [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) for the correct form) during consular services and at the town hall meeting, which can then be mailed to the United States for free by the Consulate. If you work or live with other Americans, one person can drop off the voting materials for several other people during consular services or at the town hall meeting as long as each person's forms are individually sealed in a self-addressed envelope.

## Zika Virus – Be an Informed Traveler

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued [travel notices](#) for numerous countries regarding the Zika virus. The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to infected mothers. Zika may also be linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can affect individuals of any age or sex. Zika virus is typically a mosquito-borne illness, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission. CDC recommends that women who are pregnant should not travel to areas that are at elevations less than 2,000 m above sea level in countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission.

For additional information about Zika, including travel advisories, visit the [CDC website](#).

The CDC has confirmed active local Zika virus transmission in the following foreign countries and territories:

Anguilla	public	Guinea
Antigua and Barbuda	Ecuador	Paraguay
Argentina	El Salvador	Peru
Aruba	Fiji	Saba
Barbados	French Guiana	Saint Barthelemy
Belize	Grenada	Sint Eustatius
Bolivia	Guadeloupe	Saint Lucia
Bonaire	Guatemala	Saint Martin
Brazil	Guyana	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
British Virgin Islands	Haiti	Samoa
Cabo Verde	Honduras	Sint Maarten
Cayman Islands	Jamaica	Singapore
Colombia	Martinique	Suriname
Costa Rica	Marshall Islands	The Bahamas
Cuba	Mexico	Tonga
Curacao	Micronesia	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	New Caledonia	Turks and Caicos
Dominican Re-	Nicaragua	Venezuela
	Panama	
	Papua New	

## TOP 5 THINGS EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT ZIKA

1



Zika primarily spreads through [infected mosquitoes](#). You can also get [Zika through sex](#).

2



The best way to prevent Zika is to [prevent mosquito bites](#).

3



Zika is linked to birth defects.

4



Pregnant women should not travel to [areas with Zika](#).

5



Returning travelers infected with Zika can spread the virus through mosquito bites.



## Stay Informed, Stay Connected, Stay Safe. Enroll in STEP!



The [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) is a free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Benefits of enrolling in STEP:

- Receive the latest safety and security information for your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Enroll [online](#) now!

## Picture-Perfect Passport

Bad photos are the #1 reason passport applications get held up during the application process. Submitting a passport application with a bad photo will delay processing your application and could interfere with planned travel. See the most common passport photo mistakes below:



### Over exposed or under exposed

Photos that are too bright or that show shadows on your face will also cause you problems. Your photo needs to be clear, reflecting your true skin tone.

### Photo is not recent

Your passport photo needs to have been taken within 6 months of submitting your passport photo.

### Image size

Photos must be 2 inches by 2 inches. Photos that are taken too close or too far away will be rejected. For help, use the State Department's [smart photo tool](#).

### Low quality image or paper

Photo is blurry, grainy, pixelated, or printed on the wrong paper. Photos should be high resolution and not damaged.

## Let's Stay in Touch!

Find us online at: <https://sa.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

In an effort to improve our ability to communicate with you, the American Citizen Services section is now on Twitter! Follow us online **@KSA\_ACS**.

Stay tuned for tweets regarding security messages, appointment information, services to Americans, and events. Tell your fellow U.S. citizens!

## Embassy/Consulate Closures

The Embassy/Consulate will be closed for the following holidays:

- Sunday, October 9th, in observance of Columbus Day
- Thursday, November 10th, in observance of Veterans' Day
- Thursday, November 24th, Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day

## Are You Traveling Soon?

Be sure to check your passport's expiration date! If you need to renew your passport, [schedule an appointment](#) with your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Keep in mind that it can take two to three weeks to receive your new passport after you submit your application. Please plan accordingly to ensure your travel dates are not affected.



## Election Morning Party

The U.S. 2016 Presidential Elections are just around the corner! Are you interested in watching the votes roll in at a U.S. Embassy event in Riyadh? Watch your inbox for invites to a possible Election Results party!

## Volunteers Needed!

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh is looking for American citizens resident in the Kingdom to assist as wardens in communicating with the American community in the event of an emergency. We are always looking for volunteers to serve as wardens.

Presently, we are seeking wardens in Riyadh, Turayf, Arar, Sakaka, Hail, and Buraydah. For additional information on serving as a warden, visit our [website](#). If you are interested in serving as a warden, please email [RiyadhACS@state.gov](mailto:RiyadhACS@state.gov).





## How to Become President of the USA



**What are the U.S. Constitution's requirements for a Presidential Candidate?** They must be:

- ⇒ At least 35 years old
- ⇒ A natural born citizen of the United States
- ⇒ A resident of the United States for 14 years

### What are the steps in the election process?

#### Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses

There are many people who want to be president, each of these people have their own ideas about how our government should work. People with similar ideas belong to the same political party, this is where primaries and caucuses come in. Candidates from each political party campaign throughout the country to win the favor of their party members.



#### Step 2: National Conventions

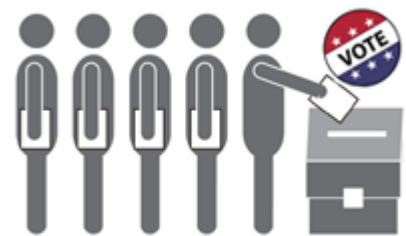
Each party holds a national convention to finalize the selection of one presidential nominee. At each convention, the presidential candidate chooses a running-mate (vice presidential candidate).



#### Step 3: General Election

The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country in an attempt to win the support of the general population.

People in every state across the country vote for one president and one vice president. When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people known as electors.



#### Step 4: Electoral College

In the Electoral College system, each state gets a certain number of electors, based on each state's total number of representation in Congress.

Each elector casts one electoral vote following the general election; there are a total of 538 electoral votes. The candidate that gets more than half (270) wins the election.

The president-elect and vice president-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated in January.





# How Many Words Can You Find?

Amendment

America

Anthem

Capitol

Document

Eagle

Federal

History

Memorial

President

Uncle Sam

Voting

D	S	V	Y	O	J	B	P	T	Q	I	Z	Z	M	Y
N	O	C	Y	N	J	F	F	N	Z	N	H	H	X	Q
K	G	C	M	Z	E	O	M	E	K	G	I	J	K	L
Q	C	A	U	D	E	A	B	M	L	N	S	P	B	Y
L	M	T	E	M	S	L	Q	D	Y	I	T	M	U	Y
J	O	R	N	E	E	N	D	N	V	T	O	X	O	G
U	A	T	L	E	L	N	M	E	M	O	R	I	A	L
L	A	C	I	Z	D	U	T	M	H	V	Y	A	N	Q
N	N	L	D	P	F	I	P	A	C	I	R	E	M	A
U	Y	T	K	H	A	G	S	E	A	G	L	E	Y	X
V	T	I	L	H	I	C	A	E	I	E	H	M	J	Z
J	Q	A	B	H	Q	D	P	E	R	T	R	Z	K	X
I	Q	U	T	W	A	R	M	Z	N	P	D	M	X	I
P	X	J	V	L	L	U	Y	A	D	H	Q	H	T	U
L	J	O	Q	I	R	V	R	C	B	S	V	D	J	R



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